

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments. Claims 1-3, 5, 18 and 20 remain pending in the case. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12, 13 and 18-20 are rejected. Claims 6-9, 12, 13 and 19 are cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 1 and 18 are amended herein. No new matter has been added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Moreover, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 6 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 herein to include the limitations of Claim 6 and have amended independent Claim 18 herein to include the limitations of Claim 19. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 18 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2, 3 and 5 dependent on Claim 1 and Claim 20 dependent on Claim 18 are also in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12, 13 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 5,437,017 by Moore et al., hereinafter referred to as the "Moore" reference, in view of "IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, May 1994, Vol. 37, Issue 5, pages 249-250 hereinafter

referred to as the "IBMTDB 37" reference. Claims 6-9, 12, 13 and 19 are cancelled herein without prejudice, and that a discussion of the rejection of Claim 6-9, 12, 13 and 19 is moot at this time.

Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 6. Claim 6 was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is allowable, and that a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2, 3 and 5, which are dependent on Claim 1, are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Applicants have also amended independent Claim 18 to include the limitations of Claim 19. Claim 19 was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 18 is allowable, and that a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 20, which is dependent on Claim 18, is also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

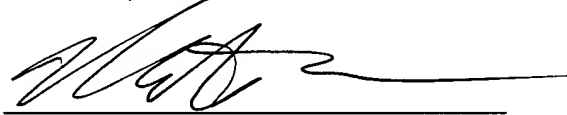
CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-3, 5, 18 and 20 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,
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